for its examination and recommendations. Clause 20 of the NREG Bill provides for the following:

"(1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish a fund to be called the National Employment Guarantee Fund for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, credit by way of grants or loans such sums of money as the Central Government may consider necessary to the National Fund.

(3) The amount standing to be credit of the National Fund shall be utilized in such manner and subject to such conditions and limitations as may be prescribed by the Central Government."

(e) Clause 24(1) of the Bill provides that the Central Govt. may, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, prescribed appropriate arrangements for audits of the accounts of the scheme at all levels.

Employment opportunities under EGS

†2452. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of opportunities of employments provided through the Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) the nature of such opportunities of employment;

(c) whether the opportunities of employment provided under the scheme are permanent; and

(d) the details of per capita/per day income generated through such opportunities of employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2004 provides for atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to rural poor households, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, in areas where the proposed legislation will be applicable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) As the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development and has so far not been enacted, it is not possible to estimate per capita/per day income generated through the opportunities of employment provided under the Bill.

Purifying sea water into drinking water

2453. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that certain State Government have set up plants in rural areas to convert sea water into protected drinking water;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been taken to finance those plants by giving suitable assistance to State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Some of the State Governments have setup plants in rural areas to convert sea water into protected drinking water. As rural drinking water supply is a State subject and Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), action plans to set-up and finance these plants are drawn up by the State Governments

(c) and (d) 15% of ARWSP funds allocated to the State Governments are earmarked for tackling quality problems, including salinity, by setting up desalination plants both for brackish water and conversion of sea water into potable water. The funding pattern between the Centre and the States is in the ratio of 75:25. Full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling quality problems.

Marketing of rural products

2454. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: